

## *No. 29 – Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### **Region Acceptance Process Summary**

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region correlates with the Santa Ana River Watershed boundaries and the Regional Water Quality Control Board boundaries.

The SAWPA Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is composed of SAWPA's five member agencies: Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Orange County Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District. SAWPA and its member agencies adopted the IRWM Plan in 2005. The January 2009 IRWM Plan update process was designed by the SAWPA RWMG as a "bottom-up" approach, with the goal of reaching out to more stakeholders. There is a Steering Committee in the SAWPA IRWM Region's governance structure that is made up of city council members, mayors, and representatives from the business and environmental communities within the Region. The stakeholders in the SAWPA IRWM Region are organized into ten separate workgroups, or "pillars", centered on specific water resource management areas. The pillar groups make recommendations to the Steering Committee, who in turn assist the SAWPA member agencies in making decisions for the Region.

The SAWPA RWMG representatives provided points of clarification to DWR in the interview noting that 1) the Yucaipa Valley Water District is in the process of withdrawing from the San Timoteo Watershed Management Authority; however, the Yucaipa Valley Water District participates in the SAWPA RWMG process and their level of participation in the IRWM process is not anticipated to suffer from this change, and 2) the Steering Committee makes most of the decisions by consensus and includes participation from Coast Keepers, developers, business community, league of Cities, a former mayor, professor, the environmental justice community, and the state legislature.

#### **Interview Conclusions- Approved**

The SAWPA IRWM Region is the sole IRWM planning effort in the entire Santa Ana Funding Area, and the Region spans the entire Funding Area.